

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11

BIB-01 HA-05 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 /087 W

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P R 071840Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 368

INFO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT, PE

SUBJECT: CONSTITUTIONAL GUARANTEES, FOOTBALL, AND PERU'S ELECTION
SCHEDULE

REF: LIMA 4954, LIMA 4891

1. SUMMARY: THE WORLD FOOTBALL CUP RATHER THAN THE CONSTITUENTE HAS
BEEN THE CENTER OF PERU'S ATTENTION THIS WEEK AFTER ITS TEAM UPSET
SCOTLAND JUNE 3 AND NOW SEEMS HEADED FOR THE PLAYOFFS IN THE WORLD
CUP SERIES IN ARGENTINA.

ALTHOUGH POLITICS, PROTESTS, CAMPAIGNING AND CURFEWS ALL TAKE SECOND
PLACE TO THE FOOTBALL FEVER, PERU'S POLITICAL PARTIES CONTINUE
DEMANDS

FOR RESTORATION OF LIBERTIES BUT APPARENTLY ALL STILL ARE PLANNING TO
PARTICIPATE IN THE ELECTIONS. THE GOP IS MAINTAINING ITS HARD
LINE TOWARD THE EXTREME LEFT IN GENERAL AND THE TEACHER'S UNION IN
PARTICULAR, BUT INSISTS THAT THE JUNE 18 ELECTION SCHEDULE WILL BE
MAINTAINED.

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2. THE MOSCOW LINE COMMUNIST PARTY (PCP) AND THE SMALL
REGIONALLY BASED FNTC PETITIONED THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION (JNE)
JUNE 7 TO POSTPONE THE JUNE 18 ELECTIONS BECAUSE "THE CLIMATE
IS NOT APPROPRIATE." PCP SPOKESMAN PROPOSED THE ELECTIONS BE MOVED
TO JULY 16 AND ASKED FOR RESTORATION OF CONSTITUTIONAL GUARANTEES,
REOPENING OF MAGAZINES, RETURN TO SITUATION PRIOR TO NATIONAL STRIKE,

INCLUDING THE GRANTING OF FREE RADIO AND TV TIME, AND THE RETURN OF EXILES. APRA, UNO, PPC AND CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC (PDC) SPOKESMAN OPPOSED THE PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE ELECTION DATE BUT REITERATED THEIR DEMANDS FOR THE RESTORATION OF GUARANTEES. IF PERU CLASSIFIES IN THE WORLD CUP FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS IN ARGENTINA, IT WILL BE PLAYING IN THE SECOND ROUND OF GAMES JUNE 18. THIS COINCIDENCE PROMPTED JAVIER ORTIZ DE ZAVALLOS, LEADER OF THE SMALL RIGHTIST PARTY MDP, TO SUGGEST THAT ELECTIONS BE HELD JUNE 19 (MONDAY VICE SUNDAY).

3. APRA AND PPC CONTINUE PLANS TO RALLIES AND OTHER CAMPAIGN APPEARANCES ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT SOME STATE OF EMERGENCY RESTRICTIONS

WILL BE LIFTED. HOWEVER, PPC HAS RESCHEDULED THE LIMA APPEARANCE OF PARTY LEADER LUIS BEDOYA REYES FROM JUNE 9 TO JUNE 13. A PPC LEADER TOLD EMBASSY OFFICERS INFORMALLY THAT ONE DAY'S POSTPONEMENT OF ELECTIONS (TO AVOID A CONFLICT WITH THE WORLD CUP) MIGHT BE ACCEPTABLE.

A LONGER POSTPONEMENT IN HIS OPINION WOULD RAISE SERIOUS QUESTIONS ABOUT THE GOP'S ELECTORAL INTENTIONS. HAYA DE LA TORRE PLANS TO CAMPAIGN OUTSIDE OF LIMA IN IQUITOS, TARAPOTO, CHIMBOTE, WEEK OF JUNE 12, WINDING UP APRA'S CAMPAIGN IN ITS STRONGHOLD OF TRUJILLO.

4. FOR ITS PART THE PSR ANNOUNCED AN ELECTION RALLY IN LIMA'S PLAZA SAN MARTIN JUNE 14 WITH, RATHER SUPRISINGLY, SCHEDULED SPEAKER GENERAL LEONIDAS RODRIGUEZ FIGUEROA; GENERAL ARTURO VALDEZ PALACIOS; FORMER HEAD OF CNA, AVELINO MAR; AND PSR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SECRETARY GENERAL ANTONIO MEZA CUADRA. THE FIRST THREE PSR FIGURES HAVE BEEN ORDERED DEPORTED AND ARE IN HIDING. AND MEZA CUADRA REPORTEDLY IS ALSO WANTED BY THE POLICE.

5. ON THE LABOR FRONT A PARTIAL TEACHER'S STRIKE CONTINUES AND FURTHER PROBLEMS IN THIS SECTOR ARE EXPECTED. GOP SECURITY FORCES (PIP) REPORTEDLY HAVE ARRESTED SUTEP'S LEADER HORATIO ZABALLOS AND ARE LOOKING FOR OTHER SUTEP DIRECTORS AND THE INTERIOR MINISTRY HAS ISSUED A STERN CONDEMNATION OF SUTEP'S "POLITICAL" DESIGNS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT SOME HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS IN PRIVATE SCHOOLS INTEND TO JOIN THE SUTEP STRIKE AT LEAST FOR JUNE 8-9. ALTHOUGH A PDC SPOKESMAN CLAIMS THAT THE GOP IS STILL HOLDING "1200 PRISONERS" AS A RESULT OF RECENT DISTURBANCES, MOSCOW LINE COMMUNIST BANDWORKER LEADER ANTONIO ZUNIGA SILVA HAS BEEN FREED, PERHAPS SIGNALLING SOME GOVERNMENT ARRANGEMENT WITH PCP AND THE CGTP.

6. COMMENT. DESPITE CALLS FOR RESTORATION OF GUARANTEES NO PARTY HAS OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED WITHDRAWAL FROM THE CAMPAIGN AND THE TWO MAJOR PARTIES (APRA AND PPC) APPEAR DETERMINED TO HOLD TO THE JUNE 18 SCHEDULE (WITH A POSSIBLE CHANGE TO JUNE 19 BECAUSE OF THE WORLD CUP). AS FAR AS THE VOTE IS CONCERNED, THE LIMITED TIME REMAINING

FOR CAMPAIGNING PROBABLY WILL BENEFIT THE ESTABLISHED PARTIES.
MEANWHILE, THE GOP CONTINUES TO CRACKDOWN ON THE EXTREME LEFT
WHILE AT THE SAME TIME REITERATING ITS INTENTION OF HOLDING THE
ELECTIONS ON SCHEDULE.
SHLAUDEMAM

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